

SEASONS

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St. Thomas More, Mount Eliza

Eighteenth Sundays of Ordinary Time, Year B

August 4th 2024

**311 Canadian Bay Rd
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930
Phone: 9787 7777**

Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au
Website: <http://pol.org.au/mounteliza>

Office Days:
Wednesdays and Fridays 10:30am to 4:30pm

Pastoral Leadership Team

*Fr Patrick Bradford, Ruth Hilton, Joe Sayah,
Emma Chapple, Sandra Taylor, Kathy Raccanello*

Pastoral Finance Committee

Joe Sayah, Jim Bourke, Joan Bekery-Coleman

Church Services from July 21st

Sundays

Saturday Vigil Mass 5.00pm

Sunday Mass 8.00am

Sunday Mass 10.00am

Tuesday Mass 5:30pm

Wednesday Mass 8:30am

Thursday Mass 10:00am

Friday* Mass 10.00am

*Rosary prayed before this Mass.

Reconciliation times

Tuesday 6.00pm — 6.30pm

Friday 9.30am —10.00am

Saturday 4.30pm —5.00pm

Adoration

Tuesday 6:00pm -7:00pm

Thursday 9:00am - 10:am

Special Mass times

[First Friday \(2nd August\)](#)

Adoration 8pm—11pm

[First Saturday \(3rd August\)](#)

Adoration 9am—10am

Mass for Protection of Life 10am

[First Sunday \(4th August\)](#)

Filipino Mass 4pm

On Thursday we celebrated the Feast of St Alphonsus—a Doctor of the Church and a reformer of moral theology. Here is a reflection on the impact of his life from Our Sunday Visitor—Fr Patrick.

St. Alphonsus Liguori was canonized in 1839, only 52 years after his death—the only professional moral theologian ever to be officially declared a saint by the Church. In 1871 he was made a doctor of the Church and, in 1950, he was named a patron of confessors and moral theologians. An eighteenth-century European Catholic seeking to please the Lord might have had reason to despair in those times. The prevailing theology of the day depicted God as a stern taskmaster who laid impossible burdens on his creatures. In this view, God expected blind obedience to a long list of rules.

It was not uncommon for confessors to withhold absolution and discourage people from receiving Communion too frequently. The law seemed to be everything, and individual human conscience had little, if any, say in determining the rightness of an action. A popular manual for confessors, noted one dissenting priest, breathed “fury, passion, sternness and fanaticism” and drove “the faithful to desperation.”


Why did St Alphonsus’ teachings strike such a chord? As he grew closer to the Lord, Alphonsus came to see the futility of numerous rules. Keenly aware of God’s love—most vividly expressed in the Passion—he sought to preach this love and to show how deeply God desires our love in return.

Born in 1696—the eldest of eight children—Alphonsus earned his law degree at just 17 years of age. His father, a navy captain and strict authoritarian, was devout but had no plans for his eldest son—who was his heir—to enter the priesthood. However, on a retreat in 1722, Alphonsus experienced a deep encounter with the Lord and decided to make a private vow of celibacy, even as his father was arranging a marriage which would probably have been socially and financially advantageous for him.

It was also around this time that Alphonsus, ever the perfectionist, lost his first court case—an important one involving large sums of money and prominent Neapolitan noblemen. Walking out of the court room in disgust, he cried: “Ah, world, I know you now!” He went home and locked himself in his room for three days, during which time he ended his legal career. He chose to enter the priesthood instead.

As a Priest Alphonsus quickly discovered that the Rigorist approach bore little fruit in the confessional. Stressing instead God’s mercy in the spirit of the prodigal son, he soon became a sought-after confessor. He and several companions reached out to the very poor living in inner-city neighborhoods—people known as the lazzaroni—to catechize them. Soon, a movement known as “The Evening Chapel” developed as groups of poor lay people from all over the city met together to pray and learn about their faith.

As Alphonsus moved away from Rigorist school of theology, he began to see the importance of prayer in the ordinary flow of lay people’s lives. Prayer was the only way, he believed, that people could receive the grace they needed to overcome temptation. Strict adherence to rules could never take the place of a living relationship with God. Many of his pastoral writings emphasized this point, as he assured his readers that God gave everyone the ability to pray.

We pray for: **Those who have passed away recently:** 

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time:
 Peg Collard, Les Collard, Marg MacDonald, Lucy Galvin, Anne Crockett, Michelle Collins, Edna Oakes, Catherine Vines, James Pullar Cameron

The sick... Barbara Hunt, Charlie Ebsworth, Nicole Buchanan Dawn Daff, John Wareham, Maggie Campbell, Carmel Gowans, Sr Elizabeth Brown-Russell, John Miller, Fiona Leyden, Annette O'Brien, Maree Bracken.

Names of the sick will be published for one month, unless otherwise requested. If you would like a Mass to be offered a loved one's intentions, envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Faith Formation for Adults each Thursday night from July 25th in Parish Community Centre 7pm - 8:15pm.


Following the successful launch of the Alpha Programme which focused more on personal faith, the Holy Spirit and prayer, we are now launching the formal catechetical part of our instruction for adults. We are warmly inviting anyone to join us for regular meetings where we will learn about the Catholic Faith, answer questions and enter into the mysteries, history and beauty of the Church's life and teachings. Over the next few months, Fr Patrick will present 14 classes on various topics. If you or someone you know would like to become Catholic the classes each week will help prepare you to receive Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. These will be celebrated on November 24th. If you are interested in this please email me directly: Patrick.bradford@cam.org.au. However, anyone is able to join any of the classes if you are curious of would like to know more about the faith. Details below:

Date	Topic
25/7/24	Faith and knowing God in the world
1/8/24	The Church
8/8/24	Scripture
15/8/24	God's family- Father, Son, Holy Spirit
BREAK	
29/8/24	Prayer: why and how to pray
5/9/24	Intro to Sacraments: Baptism & Confirmation
12/9/24	Eucharist & The Mass
19/9/24	Confession & Anointing
BREAK - SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
BREAK - SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
10/10/24	Marriage & Holy Orders
17/10/24	Catholic Social Teaching
24/10/24	10 Commandments 1-4—Love of God
31/10/24	10 Commandments 5-10 Love of neighbour pt 1
7/11/24	10 Commandments 5-10 Love of neighbour pt 2
14/11/24	The Saints and Mary
21/11/24	World without end

SAVE THE DATE!

Monday the 7th October 2024 at St Thomas More church, Mount Eliza.

Reflection Day for prayer, there is always much to pray about.



Thank you for supporting our parish

Presbytery Account: Supports our Parish Priest, other priests of the Archdiocese, sick and retired clergy and the Archbishop

Church Account: Covers regular parish expenses including loan repayments insurance, rates, utilities, staff, repairs / maintainance, cleaning and groundskeeping. **Payment terminal in the Foyer of the Church supports this account**

You can also support the Parish by electronic transfer into our NAB Bank Account for both accounts:

BSB 083-347

Church Account no. 638 078 704

Presbytery Account no 637 953 335



Life for the young priest was arduous. Alphonsus gave a retreat for a local convent. During the retreat, one sister experienced a vision in which she felt the Lord calling her to establish a new religious community. Asked to pray about the vision's authenticity, Liguori discerned that God had indeed spoken, and that he should help organize the new community. In 1731, the rule was adopted. Later that year, the same sister received another vision in which Jesus said he wanted Alphonsus to form a new congregation of men as well.

Despite initial setbacks and disputes Liguori's created a new religious community which grew in numbers, and several houses were established. The men lived austere, often without adequate food or clothing, but never without hope and faith. Having refined the mission model he used in Naples, Alphonsus sent his priests into small towns and villages. They would give stirring sermons, hear confessions, and teach the people how to pray.

At the beginning of his priesthood, Alphonsus had vowed never to waste a moment that could be put to service for the Lord—and it appears that he lived up to that vow. In addition to leading the congregation and conducting missions, he became a prolific writer of books and pastoral guides. Nine editions of his great work, *Moral Theology*, were published during his lifetime, along with 110 other titles.

In his writings, Alphonsus emphasized the importance of forming an upright conscience so that people could use their God-given freedom to make proper moral decisions. For Liguori, a well-formed conscience could make God's laws come alive far more effectively than a long list of prohibitive and sometimes arbitrary rules. Even more importantly, a well-formed conscience would allow a person to respond to God creatively and out of love.

By 1761, the 65-year-old Alphonsus Liguori was in semi-retirement at the congregation's monastery in Pagani—partially deaf and blind, asthmatic, and suffering from a damaged leg that caused him to limp. Yet God was not ready to let him retire! In 1762, Pope Clement XIII appointed him Bishop of St. Agatha of the Goths, a diocese near Naples. The news put him into a deep depression and he begged the Pope to change his mind—to no avail.

For 13 years, until he was almost 80 years old, Alphonsus was a bishop of the poor. He chose a glass ring and a simple iron cross, and served his illustrious guests vegetable soup and a little boiled beef. With his characteristic zeal for pastoring, he sought to educate the local clergy and invited the priests from his own congregation to give missions. When famine struck in the winter of 1763, he borrowed money from friends to obtain grain and dried vegetables for his people. "The bishop must think of the poor who have no one to dry their tears. They are special members of Jesus Christ," he said, often forgoing his own meals because he was so painfully aware of those who had nothing to eat.

As his health continued to deteriorate, Liguori asked to be relieved of his duties, but was again refused. Finally, in April 1775, Pope Pius VI accepted his resignation, and he returned to Pagani to live out his final days. Yet Liguori lived for 12 more years, often in intense physical pain. A disease that had first settled in his right hip now traveled up and down his body, causing such a curvature in his neck that a deep wound formed where his chin pressed against his chest.

Liguori was canonized in 1839, only 52 years after his death—the only professional moral theologian ever to be officially declared a saint by the Church. The 200 years since his death, more than 20,000 editions of his works have been published, making his writings second only to the Bible in popularity. In 1871 he was made a Doctor of the Church, and in 1950 he was named a patron of confessors and moral theologians.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday 17 August 2024

9.30am to 4pm

CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP CENTRE
576 VICTORIA PARADE, EAST MELBOURNE

Holy Mass, Adoration, Confession

Three inspiring talks by Fr Frankie:

Joy of the Gospel
Sharing the Greatest Love Story
God Who Heals

MCs



MIMI LEE



SABRINA BATRAS

MUSIC



ALYSSA AGIUS

Encounter God's love and
meet a community of women of faith!

ABOUT FR FRANKIE

Fr Frankie Mulgrew, ordained in 2013, is currently Chaplain at the Mission House, Craig Lodge in Argyll, Scotland, where he is helping to train young adults to be missionary disciples.

Fr Frankie was a professional entertainer before answering a calling to become a Catholic priest. He has addressed major Christian events all over the UK and has ministered alongside inspirational Catholic figures such as Matt Maher, John Pridmore, Chris Stefanick, and Paul J. Kim.

TICKETS

\$80 - Lunch and Morning/Afternoon Tea included

Special Offer - 2 for 1 deal

Exclusively for those under 35!

BOOKING OPTIONS

TryBooking www.trybooking.com/CQZUT

Scan the QR code

Email us at: info@cwlvicww.org.au



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catholicwomensleague



CWLVicWW

Sunday, 4th August

18th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

○ God, come to my assistance;
 ○ Lord, make haste to help me!
 You are my rescuer, my help;
 ○ Lord, do not delay.

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God
 and to you, my brothers and sisters,
 that I have greatly sinned,
 in my thoughts and in my words,
 in what I have done and
 in what I have failed to do,
 And, striking their breast, they say:
 through my fault, through my fault,
 through my most grievous fault;
 therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
 all the Angels and Saints,
 and you, my brothers and sisters,
 to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest and on earth
 peace to people of good will.
 we praise you, we bless you,
 we adore you, we glorify you,
 We give you thanks for your great glory,
 Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father
 Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
 you take away the sins of the world,
 have mercy on us;
 you take away the sins of the world,
 receive our prayer;
 you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
 have mercy on us.
 For you alone are the Holy One,
 you alone are the Lord,
 you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First Reading Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

The Lord sends manna from heaven

Responsorial Psalm 77(78):3-4,23-25,54

The Lord gave them bread from heaven

Second reading Ephesians 4:17,20-24

Put aside your old self and put on the new

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!
 No one lives on bread alone,
 but on every word that comes from the mouth of
 God.
 Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6:24-35

It is my Father who gives you the bread from
 heaven; I am the bread of life

Nicean Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of
 heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only
 Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all
 ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God
 from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial
 with the Father; through him all things were made.
 For us men and for our salvation he came down
 from heaven,

(At the words that follow up to and including and
 became man, all bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
 Mary, and became man. For our sake he was
 crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death
 and was buried, and rose again on the third day in
 accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into
 heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
 Father. He will come again in glory to judge the
 living and the dead and his kingdom will have no
 end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
 life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is adored and
 glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I
 believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
 I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
 and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The mystery of faith

When we eat this bread and drink this cup we
 proclaim your death O Lord, until you come again

Communion Antiphon

Jn 6:35

I am the bread of life, says the Lord;
 Whoever comes to me will not hunger
 And whoever believes in me will not thirst.